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Sea robbers kill naval rating in Bayelsa

Posted by: Mike Odiegwu in News 13 hours ago

• Rifle stolen

Gunmen suspected to be sea robbers have shot dead a Naval rating in Akassa, Brass Local Government Area of Bayelsa State.

The gunmen reportedly killed the rating at a new waterway checkpoint established by the Forward Operating Base (FOB), FORMOSO, to check the rising crime rate in the area.

The three hoodlums were said to have opened fire on the Navy crew on a routine stop-and-search operation on Saturday morning and killed the rating.

It was learnt that the Naval rating flagged down the boat carrying the gunmen.

On approaching the checkpoint, the gunmen were said to have raised their hands, in compliance with the security regulations on the waterways.

A source, who spoke in confidence, said the rating searched and cleared the boat, oblivious that guns were concealed in the vessel.

"The hoodlums were already clear to leave the checkpoint. The rating had left them to clear a passenger boat behind them.

"It was at that point the sea robbers brought out their rifle and shot the rating. After shooting him, they collected his rifle and fled into the creeks," the source said.

The remains of the unnamed naval rating, said to be attached to the FORMOSO, has been recovered and deposited at an unnamed morgue in Brass.

Pirates have been unleashing terror on travellers on the waterways.

The Commanding Officer of FOB FORMOSO, Captain A. S. Olanrewaju, declined to comment on the matter.

But a Navy source, who spoke on condition of anonymity, confirmed the incident.

"One of our ratings was killed by sea robbers at a new checkpoint in Akassa. The checkpoint was established recently, following outcries among the residents in the area about the increasing activities of sea robbers and pirates. We are going to fish out the killers," he said.

Governor Seriake Dickson recently inaugurated the Local Government Chairmen/Coordinators for the Bayelsa State Waterways Security Patrol Task Force to curb criminality.

The governor gave them a mandate to feed security agencies with community-based intelligence on criminal activities.

He urged them to liaise with community leaders in their various local government areas to gather information on criminal acts, such as sea piracy, crude oil theft, kidnapping, illegal refineries.

Dickson noted that in the last two months, there had been an upsurge in security breaches, especially in the East and Sentral senatorial districts.

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